

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

*In re:*

OLD CARCO LLC AND SCOTT GRAHAM,

*Debtors.*

Case No. 09-50002-smb  
New York, New York  
August 11, 2020  
10:31 a.m. - 11:06 a.m.

(Hearing via Court Solutions)

09-50002-SMB, OLD CARCO LLC AND SCOTT GRAHAM, CHAPTER 11

FRANKIE OVERTON'S MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM THE COURT'S  
"ENFORCEMENT ORDER" TO PERMIT HER TO PURSUE AN  
INDEPENDENT CLAIM AGAINST FCA US LLC

BEFORE THE HONORABLE STUART M. BERNSTEIN  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S :

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1 THE COURT: Old Carco!

2 MR. TSUKERMAN: Good morning, Your Honor, Mark  
3 Tsukerman from Cole Schotz, on behalf of the Plaintiff, Frankie  
4 Overton.

5 THE COURT: Good morning.

6 MR. GLUECKSTEIN: Good morning, Your Honor. This is  
7 Brian Glueckstein, Sullivan & Cromwell, for FCA US LLC.

8 THE COURT: Good morning. Mr. Tsukerman, I guess this  
9 is your motion, so you can proceed.

10 MR. TSUKERMAN: Thank you. Your Honor, this is  
11 Frankie Overton's --

12 THE COURT: I have to ask you to take yourself off --  
13 Mr. Tsukerman, I have to ask you to take yourself off the  
14 speakerphone because it's hard to hear.

15 MR. TSUKERMAN: Oh, I apologize. One moment. Let me  
16 just put on my headset.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. TSUKERMAN: Your Honor, can you hear me now?

19 THE COURT: Yes, now I can hear you.

20 MR. TSUKERMAN: Great. Your Honor, this is Frankie  
21 Overton's motion for relief from the order that was entered with  
22 respect to this Court's decision granting in part and denying in  
23 part FCA's motion to enforce the sale order. Your Honor, the  
24 order currently enjoins Overton from filing an amended complaint  
25 that would assert an independent failure to warn claim against

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1 FCA. Your Honor, we assert that due to what we allege was a  
2 clerical mistake or oversight, the language in the order is  
3 overbroad and does not comport with this Court's ruling and  
4 decision.

5 THE COURT: How so?

6 MR. TSUKERMAN: The threshold question in this matter  
7 is whether the relief we are seeking constitutes a substantive  
8 modification to the order or a clerical one. And that issue  
9 turns on whether the proposed modification seeks to alter the  
10 substance of the Court's ruling. And we submit, Your Honor,  
11 that the answer to that question is that it does not. The  
12 modification we are seeking doesn't disturb the Court's ruling  
13 and the decision in any way, and, therefore, it's non-  
14 substantive. If you look at the decision --

15 THE COURT: But I thought I dismissed all -- wait,  
16 wait, wait. I though I dismissed, maybe wrongly, but I thought  
17 I dismissed in the decision all of Overton's claims. And the  
18 order accurately reflects that disposition, right?

19 MR. TSUKERMAN: In the decision, Your Honor, you  
20 dismissed all of Overton's claims as alleged in the complaint.  
21 In the complaint that was before the Court, there was  
22 independent claim alleged. The question that was before the  
23 Court was whether the claims that were alleged, which were  
24 product defect claims, and Overton's position was that she could  
25 assert those product defect claims, which were assumed by FCA,

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1 notwithstanding, the punitive damages exclusion because Alabama  
2 wrongful death damages do not fall within the threshold of that  
3 exclusion. And Your Honor disagreed, but the issues were  
4 contract-based argument. The question was the scope of the  
5 contract or public policy if the contract was enforced. And so,  
6 everything that was before the Court and everything that the  
7 Court considered was whether the claims as alleged, which were  
8 really assumed liability claims, should proceed. And this Court  
9 said that they could not because they were barred by the sale  
10 order. But the complaint, although --

11 THE COURT: So, what was the mistake?

12 MR. TSUKERMAN: The mistake is that when you look at  
13 the language of the order that was actually entered, which  
14 defines the claims that are barred as all claims under wrongful  
15 death damages, there's no qualification to tie it to the  
16 pleading that was asserted. And because of the unique nature of  
17 wrongful death damages, and that's the only type of claim that  
18 Overton can assert, she now cannot even attempt to amend her  
19 complaint to bring an independent claim that falls outside the  
20 sale order all together.

21 Your Honor, if you had considered this issue, and  
22 frankly, Your Honor, this wasn't in the papers, so we're not  
23 surprised that the Court didn't consider it. But if you had  
24 considered whether Overton could assert an independent claim,  
25 then as with any other time that the question of an independent

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1 claim comes before the Court, the Court would have likely ruled  
2 either -- well, as the complaint was currently drafted, the  
3 Court certainly ruled that it pleaded as an independent claim.  
4 But the Court would have likely ruled, as with any other  
5 plaintiff, that it was without prejudice for the plaintiff to at  
6 least attempt to replead to assert an independent claim. But  
7 that discussion, that colloquy, that argument was never had  
8 because that was never before the Court at all.

9 THE COURT: But if it was never before me, how could I  
10 make a mistake not deciding it? It sounds like you're saying,  
11 you didn't make an argument, but I should have recognized that  
12 there was an argument and modified my ruling.

13 MR. TSUKERMAN: No, actually, that's exactly what  
14 we're not alleging. We're alleging that you don't have to  
15 modify your ruling. We're alleging that the decision is  
16 correct. You properly didn't decide it. But due to our error  
17 in transcribing the Court's ruling into the order, and not  
18 catching the flaw in the language, now the order effectually  
19 acts as a continuing injunction, barring Overton from even  
20 attempting to plead a claim that is not barred by the sale  
21 order.

22 THE COURT: Why is that the Court's oversight or  
23 mistake?

24 MR. TSUKERMAN: Your Honor, it's more of Overton's  
25 oversight in missing the language and not using the --

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1 THE COURT: Let me tell you the problem. One of the  
2 problems I'm having is whether it's a mistake within the meaning  
3 of 60(a) or a mistake within the meaning of 60(b)(1). And  
4 that's an important distinction because if it's a 60(b)(1)  
5 mistake, the motion is probably time barred, or at least FCA is  
6 arguing it's time barred. I just don't understand how you can  
7 say it's a clerical mistake where I decided what was argued.  
8 And it sounds to me like you're saying the judgment accurately  
9 reflects the memorandum decision.

10 MR. TSUKERMAN: Your Honor, we're saying there's no  
11 mistake in the decision. There's no substantive error in the  
12 decision, but the order, due to an oversight, does not  
13 accurately reflect what this Court actually ruled in the  
14 decision.

15 THE COURT: But that post-closing issue, you know, I  
16 went back, and I looked at all the papers on the original  
17 motion. It's true that there were some general distinctions  
18 between post-closing and preclosing, but it was really all in  
19 connection with the Graham claims, where Graham had separately  
20 pleaded a post-closing claim, which included punitive damages  
21 and a preclosing claim that didn't. But again, I come back to  
22 the issue of how this is a clerical mistake if I've decided what  
23 you argued and the judgment accurately reflects what I decided,  
24 which is what I'm hearing.

25 MR. TSUKERMAN: Well, that's exactly why it's a

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1 clerical mistake, Your Honor, in the language. Your Honor, if  
2 you assume, for example, hypothetically, and this is not our  
3 position, that it is a mistake that would fall within the scope  
4 of (b)(1), then that would mean that it's essentially a  
5 substantive error. That Your Honor, that this Court made an  
6 error, a substantive error in the decision that we should have  
7 brought on appeal. But we do not think it is that type of error  
8 because we're not challenging that substance of the Court's  
9 ruling, and there was no record on this issue below, and so,  
10 it's not the type of issue that we should have been required to  
11 bring on appeal because it's more the issue that should be  
12 brought the way we have, pursuant to Rule 60(a).

13 THE COURT: You know what it sounds like to me, this  
14 is the kind of issue you normally hear on a motion to re-argue,  
15 which is essentially a 60(b) motion. The Court overlooked  
16 something; the Court should have actually said in the decision  
17 and indicated in the judgment that it's without prejudice to any  
18 viable post-closing claims, basically. And that's usually a  
19 motion for re-argument. If you're telling me that Overton  
20 failed to make an argument that maybe it should have made at the  
21 time, it sounds like it's excusable neglect or a mistake or  
22 something like that, but that sounds like 60(b)(1) motion,  
23 which I'm not sure you can do now, frankly.

24 MR. TSUKERMAN: Well, Your Honor, I don't think we're  
25 saying that we should have brought that. I don't think that's

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1 our position because the issue in the motion to enforce brought  
2 by FCA was whether -- they were seeking to bar wrongful death  
3 damages because they were determined by the Alabama courts to be  
4 punitive, and the punitive damages are barred by the sale order.  
5 And the focus of the pleadings and all the arguments were  
6 regarding that. And the assumption was that all of Overton's  
7 claims really assumed liability claims. And all of the  
8 arguments and all the issues before the Court were on that  
9 issue. And admittedly, the language in the complaint, as  
10 drafted, did encompass a failure to warn claim for Overton, but  
11 it just wasn't pleaded that way. It was pleaded as assumed  
12 liability claims. And the way the complaint separated out post-  
13 closing and pre-closing claims for Graham, that just wouldn't be  
14 possible for Overton. First, it would be inconsistent with --

15 THE COURT: Why not?

16 MR. TSUKERMAN: Well, it would be inconsistent with  
17 Overton's position. First, that all the claims were outside the  
18 scope of the order. And for the exact reason that we've had to  
19 amend the complaint now, it wouldn't be possible, right?  
20 Because if the --

21 THE COURT: Why? Why couldn't you plead the same way  
22 that you pleaded for Graham? One theory was that it was the  
23 defective design and manufacture, and the second theory was that  
24 the proximate cause was the failure to warn.

25 MR. TSUKERMAN: Well, because our position was that



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1 all the claims were outside the contract and outside the scope  
2 of the sale order. So, it wouldn't make sense to take a  
3 theoretical alternative position in the complaint.

4 THE COURT: Why not? You're doing it with Graham,  
5 aren't you?

6 MR. TSUKERMAN: We're doing it with Graham, but with  
7 Graham --

8 THE COURT: Either the proximate cause of the accident  
9 was the defective design, or the proximate cause was the failure  
10 to warn. Exactly what you argued.

11 MR. TSUKERMAN: Graham is proceeding with a claim on  
12 the product defect against FCA no matter what. Graham is just  
13 not seeking punitive damages in connection with that claim.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MR. TSUKERMAN: With Overton, it's a binary  
16 proposition. It's one or the other. Overton can't proceed  
17 against FCA based on a product defect claim at this point  
18 because it was found that that Overton position was incorrect,  
19 which is now final. And we're not challenging that ruling. So,  
20 now Overton is only seeking to assert post-closing claims  
21 against FCA. But at the time, Overton's position was that the  
22 claims that were being asserted against FCA fell outside the  
23 scope of the sale order. So, it wouldn't make sense to have a -  
24 - I mean, I don't even know how that would look in the  
25 complaint, but you would have to have --

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1 THE COURT: Let me tell you how it would look.

2 Alternatively, even if the sale order bars the punitive damage  
3 claim based on the theory of defective design and manufacture,  
4 it would not bar a post-closing claim arising from the failure  
5 to warn. That's what you would argue. Which is kind of what  
6 you tried to argue in the district court in a footnote and then  
7 before the Second Circuit. So, that brings me to my next  
8 question. Procedurally or substantively, what is the effect  
9 that the Second Circuit's determination in its footnote that you  
10 forfeited the argument about post-closing claims?

11 MR. TSUKERMAN: Your Honor, we submit that it has no  
12 effect, assuming the Court agrees, that the issue that we're  
13 seeking to address is a clerical issue. Because it's not an  
14 issue that one would expect to bring on appeal, given that it  
15 wasn't addressed below, and it's an issue that is appropriately  
16 brought under Rule 60(a).

17 THE COURT: What does it mean, though, when the court  
18 says you forfeited an argument?

19 MR. TSUKERMAN: Well, the question is what was  
20 forfeited? I think what it means is, the Second Circuit  
21 determined that the argument wasn't adequately reasonable, and  
22 the district court didn't have notice of it, which is fair,  
23 because it never was raised on the district court level. And  
24 then the court held that it wasn't therefore adequately  
25 preserved on appeal and forfeited it. But the question is, what

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1 was forfeited?

2 THE COURT: Fair enough. But that's what I'm asking.

3 MR. TSUKERMAN: Right. I mean the argument that was  
4 admittedly raised for the first time at the Second Circuit level  
5 was that the order had substantive error, and therefore, it  
6 should be reversed. But that's not the argument we're making  
7 under Rule 60(a). We're not making that argument. Certainly,  
8 there was never an argument made before the Second Circuit that  
9 the order, due to the parties' transcription error, didn't  
10 accurately reflect the import of this Court's decision, which  
11 was to bar claims barred by the sale order. The current order,  
12 as now entered, we submit, exceeds the scope of even the sale  
13 order. And we think that that certainly wasn't this Court's  
14 intent.

15 THE COURT: Well, you might have been right if you had  
16 made the argument, or if Overton had made the argument that in  
17 the alternative, the design and manufacture claims are barred,  
18 the assumed liability claims you referred to. We also have  
19 claims for failure to warn post-closing, and those claims would  
20 not and could not be barred by the sale order. And you'd  
21 probably be right, frankly. But you're saying you never made  
22 that argument, and I decided the argument you made, and it  
23 sounds like the judgment accurately reflects what I decided, and  
24 you're saying, well, but maybe the judgment, which by the way, I  
25 won't say it was negotiated, but you certainly had notice of,

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1 and you had one objection to the form of the judgment, which  
2 probably was resolved. But you're saying, well, maybe the  
3 judgment should have carved something out, recognized an  
4 argument that I never made. I just don't understand that.

5 MR. TSUKERMAN: Well, I think that's maybe another way  
6 to look at it, Your Honor. Had we caught the issue with the  
7 language in paragraph 2 it is, I think, of the order before,  
8 while it was being settled, and before it was entered, and we  
9 raised this issue with the Court, we submit that the Court would  
10 have agreed that in its decision, it didn't intend to preclude  
11 Overton from the ability of even attempting to assert an claim,  
12 and would have agreed to a qualification of the language in that  
13 paragraph in order to prevent that outcome.

14 THE COURT: Wouldn't I have said that if you submitted  
15 such an order, that it doesn't accurately reflect the decision?

16 MR. TSUKERMAN: That's right. I'm sorry, what's the  
17 question, Your Honor?

18 THE COURT: In other words, when I get an order, if  
19 somebody puts something in which was not in the decision, I  
20 always reject it saying, the order doesn't accurately reflect  
21 the decision. It's inconsistent with the decision. And that's  
22 why I say, this sounds like what you're really arguing is, you  
23 should have made a motion for re-argument to clarify the  
24 decision. Saying that either I overlooked it, or you overlooked  
25 it, or whatever you want. Or you meant to argue this. But you

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1 didn't do that.

2 All right. You haven't really told me, or maybe you  
3 have. It's not clear to me what the effect of Second Circuit's  
4 statement that you forfeited the argument that the court made  
5 substantive error by not, I guess, recognizing that the sale  
6 order didn't bar post-closing claims.

7 MR. TSUKERMAN: Your Honor, I think just to make sure  
8 my answer is clear on that question, the question is what was  
9 forfeited and what was waived, and the argument here that  
10 there's a clerical mistake or oversight is not an argument that  
11 was raised with the Second Circuit, nor should it have been  
12 raised with the Second Circuit. And therefore, it is not waived  
13 or forfeited.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. TSUKERMAN: And there's one other point, Your  
16 Honor, if I can just mention before you move on?

17 THE COURT: Sure.

18 MR. TSUKERMAN: Obviously, this motion was brought  
19 under Rule 60 for relief from the order, but I think given the  
20 unique circumstances of this case, and the fact that the order  
21 itself, the order interpreting the sale order has the effect of  
22 a continuing injunction, I think that this Court certainly has  
23 the power and the authority and the ability to interpret,  
24 enforce, and implement its own orders. And to the extent the  
25 Court agrees that it shouldn't foreclose a non-debtor from the

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1 ability to bring a claim that's outside of the sale order, which  
2 the order is intending to interpret or enforce, this Court has  
3 the ability to rectify that issue, even if it's not under Rule  
4 60. Even *sua sponte*.

5 THE COURT: I can do it outside of Rule 60?

6 MR. TSUKERMAN: Your Honor, I respectfully submit that  
7 you can. The bankruptcy court is a court of equity; this is  
8 your order, you entered the order; and this Court can review it,  
9 modify it, and interpret it, and implement it. I think what's  
10 happening here is that the order is being implemented in a way  
11 that was not anticipated, not intended by this Court. I think  
12 the effect of the order currently has jurisdictional  
13 implication. There's binding Second Circuit law that the sale  
14 order doesn't bar independent claims. Assuming Your Honor  
15 admits that we've an independent claim now in the amended  
16 complaint, there's just no reason that that claim should be  
17 barred. And the order currently prevents Overton from even  
18 making that claim.

19 THE COURT: Well, if you really want me to determine  
20 under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures whether you  
21 adequately pleaded an independent post-closing claim, I'm happy  
22 to do it. I don't think you're going to be happy with the  
23 result.

24 MR. TSUKERMAN: Well, Your Honor, you already made  
25 that determination with (inaudible) Graham.

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1 THE COURT: You don't allege any facts in there. All  
2 you say is that they knew, and they failed to warn.

3 MR. TSUKERMAN: Your Honor, we alleged the same facts  
4 that Graham alleged in support of his independent claim, which  
5 this Court already allowed. So, unless Your Honor wants to  
6 reconsider that decision, we think that there's law of the case  
7 on that.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Fair. Let me hear from Mr.  
9 Glueckstein.

10 MR. GLUECKSTEIN: Thank you, Your Honor. Good  
11 morning. This I Brian Glueckstein, Sullivan & Crowell for FCA.  
12 Your Honor has hit it on the right points. And just to level  
13 segue where we are, Your Honor, the Court is right. This Court  
14 did dismiss in its 2018 decision, all of Overton's claims. And  
15 the order that was reviewed by Mr. Tsukerman, and agreed and  
16 submitted to the Court, pursuant to the Court's direction,  
17 reflect that decision.

18 And, Your Honor, the Court is 100 percent correct.  
19 And then there was some colloquy in the discussion now about  
20 whether this could have been pleaded in the alternative in the  
21 complaint, and certainly, as Your Honor points out, it could  
22 have been. I would go further. Certainly, at the point that  
23 Your Honor issued the decision and Overton determined to take an  
24 appeal of the decision, it had one year under Rule 60(b)(1) to  
25 bring a motion for reconsideration to raise this very issue.

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1 They could have brought that motion. They chose not to.

2 In fact, Your Honor, what they did was appeal the  
3 order. And now in the briefing on this Rule 60 motion, Your  
4 Honor is seeing counsel downplay what they did. And we would  
5 submit, Your Honor, that they are understating drastically what  
6 they tried to do in the two appeals. They included this very  
7 point in their briefing with the district court. Did so in  
8 footnote. That was a tactical decision that they made. They  
9 did that for whatever reason they decided to do it.

10 In their briefing to the Second Circuit, after the  
11 district court affirmed this Court's decision in its entirety,  
12 Overton's counsel argued this point at length. It argued it in  
13 its opening brief, and it argued it in even more length in its  
14 reply brief covering four pages. And as part of that  
15 discussion, Your Honor, contrary to what we are hearing now,  
16 Overton's counsel argued to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals  
17 that she had asserted post-closing claims since "the filing of  
18 the complaint in 2017." And cited to paragraph 56 of the  
19 original complaint.

20 This was a substantive point that was raised in the  
21 appeal, it was discussed after oral argument before the panel in  
22 May. The Second Circuit did not stay silent on this issue. And  
23 unlike the Panama (indiscernible) case that's cited in the reply  
24 brief that was filed in connection with this motion, where there  
25 was some question as to whether the Second Circuit had engaged



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1 on the issue, here, the Second Circuit included in its decision  
2 and mandate an express determination that the argument was  
3 forfeited. And Your Honor asked the question of Mr Tsukerman as  
4 to what that means, and we would submit, Your Honor, that the  
5 substantive point has in fact been forfeited. And I think what  
6 we're hearing now is --

7 THE COURT: Can I ask you, Mr. Glueckstein?

8 MR. GLUECKSTEIN: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Is the argument just on the appeal  
10 forfeited so that the Court won't consider it? Or is the  
11 underlying argument, which is basically the same argument  
12 they're making here, forfeited in this Court?

13 MR. GLUECKSTEIN: Our position, Your Honor, is that  
14 them having chosen to engage in this argument on the appeal, the  
15 Second Circuit has now said, as a substantive matter, it has  
16 been forfeited. What we're hearing now is that the potential  
17 way around that, and that's why this motion is filed, in my  
18 view, as a Rule 60(a) motion, is this clerical error idea. That  
19 notwithstanding the fact that the substantive issue is now  
20 barred because they engaged on this issue in however manner they  
21 chose to do it, and that argument failed.

22 They argued strenuously and attempted to persuade the  
23 Second Circuit to exercise its discretion that despite having  
24 only raised it in a footnote with the district court, to  
25 consider this argument on the appeal. The Second Circuit took

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1 argument orally at the oral argument on this and declined to do  
2 so. Coming back to this Court now and asserting the exact same  
3 substantive argument should not, Your Honor, we submit, be  
4 permitted. And so, this does come back to the question, where  
5 Mr. Tsukerman started the argument this morning, as to whether  
6 this is a clerical error. And, Your Honor, we submit that it  
7 clearly is not. What they're asking to do here is modify the  
8 Court's 2018 decision that bar in its entirety Overton's claims  
9 that they have represented to the Second Circuit Court of  
10 Appeals.

11 And, frankly, Your Honor might recall, there was a  
12 colloquy back in 2018 on the motion before this Court where  
13 counsel for Overton made the point that Overton had asserted the  
14 same post-closing claims as Graham. Yes, the focus of that  
15 argument primarily at the time was on Graham claims, but the  
16 first time we ever heard that this is a new claim they want to  
17 assert that had not been part of the case, that had not been  
18 part of the decision before Your Honor was in this motion. And  
19 the record all the way up to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals  
20 belies that fact, Your Honor. So, this is, as Your Honor  
21 posited, a Rule 60(b)(1) motion. And that by statute, under  
22 Federal Rule 60(c)(1) is expressed that that must be brought  
23 within one year of the date of entry of the enforcement order.

24 So, what happened here, Your Honor, we would submit,  
25 is that the plaintiff chose an appeal strategy. They were

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1 seeking desperately to overturn this Court's decision with  
2 respect to the macro issue, as to whether the damages under the  
3 Alabama Wrongful Death Act were considered punitive or not.  
4 They focused their efforts there, they raised the post-closing  
5 claim in connection with that argument, and they lost. And now,  
6 they're coming back to Your Honor to try to start over again.  
7 And we would submit, Your Honor, that's precisely what Rule 60  
8 is drafted to prevent.

9 After having litigated this issue for two years, up to  
10 the Second Circuit, FCA is entitled to some finality. And we  
11 don't believe that Your Honor has the ability under Rule 60 as a  
12 result of the mandate being issued by the Second Circuit, or to  
13 consider it under 60(b) to engage on this issue further now  
14 under this new theory that Overton has come up with. And so,  
15 Your Honor, we would submit that really the only path to the  
16 modification that's being sought is Rule 60(a) and there's  
17 nothing in the record to suggest that there was an error in  
18 transcription from the decision where this Court in fact barred  
19 all of Overton's claims, reducing that to the order that was  
20 negotiated and entered by the Court in November of 2018.

21 So, we would submit, Your Honor, that, yes, we'd be  
22 having a different discussion if this had been raised  
23 contemporaneously or in parallel with the appeal of the  
24 preclosing claims, but we don't believe at this stage, Your  
25 Honor, that this Court should entertain any modification of the

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1 judgment at this time.

2 THE COURT: What's your response to the argument that  
3 there's a general equity power to correct the judgment? Not to  
4 correct the mistake because I'm not convinced there's nay  
5 mistake here, but to clarify a judgment to the effect that the  
6 question been presented, this is how I would have decided it.

7 MR. GLUECKSTEIN: Your Honor, it's hard to answer int  
8 he abstract, but, I think, in the context of what we're talking  
9 about here, where the Court is being asked to, notwithstanding  
10 if we accept for a moment that Rule 60 is not available, because  
11 of a strategic path that the plaintiff here chose to take, that  
12 the Court should nonetheless revisit issues two years on, we  
13 would submit, Your Honor that that's not an equitable way to  
14 proceed. That in fact, this plaintiff has been well represented  
15 by competent counsel, who has fought tooth and nail all the way  
16 up to the Second Circuit on all of these issues. They have  
17 fought in the Alabama trial court, they have resisted in the  
18 Alabama trial court any dismissal of these claims, saying, we  
19 have continuing appeals. And so, Your Honor, this is yet,  
20 another tactic.

21 I would submit, Your Honor, that on the facts at least  
22 of this case, there is no basis for the Court to try to exercise  
23 any sort of equitable remedy to a situation that has Rule 60 in  
24 the federal rules plainly available and was not utilized. And  
25 that is a decision to pursue an appeal instead of a motion for

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1 reconsideration that we submit this particular plaintiff needs  
2 to live with at this stage of the litigation.

3 THE COURT: Well, the question was originally, is  
4 there some general equitable authority outside of Rule 60 to  
5 modify a judgment that does not reflect what I would have  
6 decided had the issue been presented. And as you know, I've  
7 consistently said that the sale order doesn't bar post-closing  
8 wrongful conduct. And I think the Second Circuit said that in  
9 GM in the Elliot case. And it makes sense. And the question  
10 is, whether I should clarify the judgment, for lack of a better  
11 verb, to clarify the judgment to say that, even though it wasn't  
12 raised, it wasn't decided, and it's not in the judgment as a  
13 matter of equity, whether or not Rule 60 permits it? I  
14 understand you're saying this is not an equitable situation.  
15 I'm really asking more, is there an authority to do that?

16 MR. GLUECKSTEIN: I'm not aware of such authority  
17 outside of Rule 60, Your Honor. And I would say, understanding  
18 you're asking the general equitable question, and I'm not aware  
19 of such authority, other than the fact that this is a court of  
20 equity and the Court does have broad discretionary powers. But  
21 I'm not aware of any instance where Rule 60 was found to be  
22 available and the Court nonetheless granted relief. There is  
23 quite a bit of caselaw, in fact, enforcing, and we cited some of  
24 it in our briefing, but, of course, there's quite a bit of  
25 caselaw suggesting that if you don't comply with the timing and

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1 initial requirements of Rule 60 that that is finality. And I  
2 think finality here is important.

3 And the last thing I would say on this point, Your  
4 Honor, is with respect to the post-closing claim itself. And  
5 I'm not going to go into the details of that. Obviously, Your  
6 Honor has issued now two decisions in the last two years that  
7 deal with that issue and set out a standard in the Deardon case.  
8 And with respect to the Graham claims here that any litigant can  
9 look to. I think there continued to be some disagreements,  
10 frankly, as to how that's interpreted, and I don't concede for  
11 this purposes of this discussion that this amended complaint  
12 necessarily falls within that standard. But I don't believe  
13 that the Court needs to get there.

14 I think this is a particular situation where the  
15 litigation history here is well documented. Your Honor  
16 referenced earlier this morning that you've reviewed the record,  
17 we reviewed the record, I'm not going to belabor it, but I think  
18 this is the classic situation where a litigant chose an appeal  
19 path, Rule 60 states what it does. Any challenge at this point  
20 is untimely, absent it being a clerical error, and I think it is  
21 patently clear from the documents that there was no clerical  
22 error. So, under the circumstances, we would submit, Your  
23 Honor, that this motion should be denied, and we should finally  
24 have the finality that we thought the Second Circuit decision  
25 had provided.

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1 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Tsukerman, I have one  
2 question. Do you dispute that if Rule 60(b)(1) is the  
3 appropriate vehicle for your motion that the motion is time  
4 barred? And if not, why not?

5 MR. TSUKERMAN: No, Your Honor. I don't think we can  
6 dispute that. We dispute that this argument needs to be brought  
7 under (b)(1), but if the Court finds that it must have been  
8 brought under (b)(1), then under the statute, it is time barred  
9 because it's been more than a year. But, Your Honor, we think  
10 this is a unique circumstance and would fall under Rule (b)(6),  
11 which is a very broad kind of --

12 THE COURT: I know but hasn't the Second Circuit said  
13 though you can't rely on (b)(6) if one of the more specific  
14 provisions applies?

15 MR. TSUKERMAN: The Second Circuit has ruled that.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. TSUKERMAN: But we don't think it's a (b)(1)  
18 situation. Again, because we're not challenging any of the  
19 substance of this Court's rulings in its decision. We're  
20 seeking actually the exact relief that Your Honor just mentioned  
21 in connection with the Court's equitable power and the relief,  
22 which you could potentially do, which would be just to clarify  
23 that the order axiomatically does not bar claims that are  
24 independent and therefore outside the 363 sale. If that  
25 qualification were in the order, we would not have this issue.

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1 And so, Your Honor, to that point, we could have brought this  
2 motion as a motion essentially to interpret and clarify the  
3 order, alternatively, under Rule 60. And we think this Court  
4 has inherent powers. And is a court of equity. And this Court  
5 has inherent powers to review, and interpret, and enforce, and  
6 implement its orders. And if there's an injunction in the  
7 order, which the Court determines exceeds the scope, which has  
8 the effect of being contrary to Second Circuit law, and  
9 potentially exceeds the scope of this Court's limited  
10 jurisdiction to bar claims, which are impacted by the order and  
11 not bar claims that are outside the scope of the sale order,  
12 amongst non-debtors, then this Court has the power to consider  
13 that.

14 THE COURT: Okay. What I'd like the parties to do is  
15 to order the transcript to this argument, file it on the ECF and  
16 email a copy to chambers, if you would. And I'll reserve  
17 decision.

18 MR. TSUKERMAN: Will do.

19 MR. GLUECKSTEIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

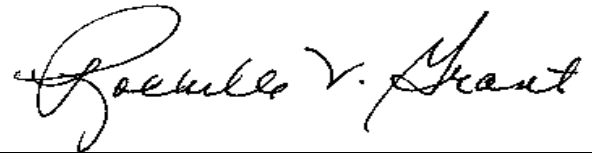
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CERTIFICATION

I, Rochelle V. Grant, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Dated: August 12, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rochelle V. Grant". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature of Approved Transcriber